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PRESS RELEASE

The USAID Quality Learning Project Holds Kick-off Meeting At The Republican Teacher Training Institute in Dushanbe

Dushanbe, Tajikistan — The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Tajikistan Ministry of Education jointly announced the official kick-off of the Quality Learning project at a February 27, 2008 meeting at the Republican Teacher Training Institute in Dushanbe.

The USAID Quality Learning is a five-year project designed to provide technical expertise in teacher training, student assessment, curriculum development, school governance and financial management to enhance education delivery in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan.

The USAID project will work to expand access to quality primary and secondary education, while building on achievements and lessons learned from USAID's previous programs in basic education. The project will also support the implementation of the Tajikistan's national education strategy and the Fast Track Initiative grants awarded to the country for 2006-2008. The project will result in improved student learning outcomes through: (1) broad application of modern teaching and student assessment methodologies; (2) active participation of teachers in curriculum and education policy development; (3) increased effectiveness of host governments in addressing teacher shortages and (4) use of transparent and efficient school finance and management systems. Beneficiaries of the Quality Learning project will include: students, teachers, administrators, teacher training institutes, pedagogical training institutes, parents and community members.

Mrs. Irina Karimova, Deputy Minister of Education of the Republic of Tajikistan, said: "We are delighted to be working with USAID to implement the Quality Learning project. Today's event marks the official beginning of an important program that initiated on November 2, 2007 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Tajikistan Minister of Education, Mr. Abdujabbor Rahmonov, and the USAID Regional Mission Director, Mr. William Frej."

"The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is pleased to support the Government of Tajikistan in its efforts to provide high-quality education to all primary and secondary students," said Carolyn Bryan, USAID Country Director for Tajikistan. "We hope that this project will truly contribute to the improved quality of education in the country."

The Quality Learning is one of the many USAID projects in Tajikistan. Since 1992, the American people through USAID have brought nearly \$300 million in assistance programs that support country's economy, health care, education, and democratic institutions.

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